

they need with confirmed U.S. attorneys. So I am very glad that this has finally, finally happened. It took too long, but now it is done.

I yield the floor.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant executive clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 800, Sherilyn Peace Garnett, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California.

Charles E. Schumer, Cory A. Booker, Tammy Baldwin, Patrick J. Leahy, Patty Murray, Tina Smith, Sheldon Whitehouse, John W. Hickenlooper, Gary C. Peters, Benjamin L. Cardin, Jeanne Shaheen, Jon Tester, Richard J. Durbin, Catherine Cortez Masto, Mazie Hirono, Amy Klobuchar, Maria Cantwell.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Sherilyn Peace Garnett, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 64, nays 34, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 138 Ex.]

YEAS—64

Baldwin	Hassan	Romney
Bennet	Heinrich	Rosen
Blumenthal	Hickenlooper	Rounds
Booker	Hirono	Sanders
Brown	Kaine	Schatz
Burr	Kelly	Schumer
Cantwell	King	Shaheen
Capito	Klobuchar	Sinema
Cardin	Leahy	Smith
Carpenter	Lujan	Stabenow
Casey	Manchin	Tester
Collins	Markey	Tillis
Coons	McConnell	Toomey
Cornyn	Menendez	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warner
Duckworth	Murkowski	Warnock
Durbin	Murray	Warren
Ernst	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Padilla	Wicker
Gillibrand	Peters	Young
Graham	Portman	
Grassley	Reed	

NAYS—34

Barrasso	Daines	Lee
Blackburn	Fischer	Lummis
Blunt	Hagerty	Marshall
Boozman	Hawley	Moran
Braun	Hooven	Paul
Cassidy	Hyde-Smith	Risch
Cotton	Inhofe	Rubio
Cramer	Johnson	Sasse
Crapo	Kennedy	
Cruz	Lankford	

Scott (FL)	Shelby	Thune
Scott (SC)	Sullivan	Tuberville

NOT VOTING—2

Murphy	Wyden
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The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HICKENLOOPER). On this vote, the yeas are 64, the nays 34.

The motion is agreed to.

The Senator from Wyoming.

ENERGY

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to talk about the need for more American energy.

Since his first day in office, Joe Biden has been on a war—an all-out war—against American energy.

In his very first week in office, he stopped all new leases of oil and gas on public lands. That was completely illegal for the President to do that. A few months later, a Federal court told the President that what he had done was illegal.

The law states that the American people may explore for energy on Federal lands, and the law calls for ways that it can be done. So here we are now, 15 months into the Biden administration, and, finally, Joe Biden has grudgingly agreed to follow the law. He is going to sell a bare minimum of leases to obey the court order.

So how much is a bare minimum? Well, for the entire State of Utah—my neighboring State—they are only offering one single parcel to the entire State. And at the same time, Joe Biden is raising the cost of American energy production to the point that he is raising Federal royalty rates on the energy produced on that Federal land by 50 percent.

When we produce less American energy, the American people end up paying more for the energy they use. This is Joe Biden's economy in a nutshell, the economy that has given us the highest cost inflation in 40 years.

In the last hundred years, no President has ever raised these royalty fees for producing American energy until Joe Biden. It just shows that when it comes to energy, Joe Biden is further to the left of any previous American President.

So who is going to pay for these higher fees on Joe Biden's attack on American energy? People understand it. They know that they are going to be the ones who are going to have to pay for it, and often it is the people who can least afford it in our home States and across the country.

These higher costs for American energy—thanks to Joe Biden—are going to be paid for by working families, people who are already struggling to keep up and falling further behind in Joe Biden's economy. Producing less, raising costs—it is the perfect recipe for more inflation.

As I was coming down to the floor, I walked by a TV screen. The bottom screen shot said: "Joe Biden's approval rating hits an alltime low." It seems to be happening all the time, week after week, month after month, continuing

to fall in the polls because the American people are distressed and in pain over what this President and what the Democrats in the House and the Senate are doing to the people of this great country. Doing the bare minimum, this President may satisfy the courts, but it is not enough to satisfy or save struggling families.

To stop this inflation nightmare, we need a long-term commitment to producing more American energy. Energy companies aren't going to invest if they think—and Joe Biden tells them and threatens them—that he wants to shut them down tomorrow. That is exactly, though, what he continues to talk about doing.

So just last week, after the President gave a speech and said: Well, we need to at least do these leases, his climate czar, Gina McCarthy—I guess she must really be the one who is running the show down there in the White House. This is after the President of the United States made a speech about what he says we are going to do, you know. "Pay no attention," she says, "to the President." She said he is "absolutely committed to not moving forward with additional drilling on public lands." Who is calling the shots? She said: "We had no choice but to follow the court ruling."

Then they asked the Press Secretary. She said last week: "We are going to continue to fight this court [ruling]"—continue to fight—"that is forcing our hand."

They are going to continue to fight the American people all the way to the ballot box in November, where the American people say, we have had enough of this stuff.

Then there is Joe Biden's climate czar, John Kerry, former Member of this body, former Secretary of State. Here is just a couple of things that he has had to say recently. He said, "We have to put the [natural gas] industry on notice." He said, "You've got [no more than] six years, eight years, no more than 10 years," he said. He said, "by 2030 in the United States, we will not have coal plants." He says, "We will have to be phasing out coal plants five times faster" than we are doing now.

These are people who are not committed to affordable energy. These are people who are not committed to the fight against inflation. These are people who are not committed to the American people and the American families who go to work every day, try to put food on the table, try to get their kids to school. Oh, no.

And what does John Kerry, then—who does he have to praise? Well, he praised the energy policy of the State of California. Which State has the highest energy cost in America? California. That is the Biden administration telling the American people, we want you to be like California. We want you to pay even more than you are paying now.

Joe Biden and the environmental extremist who the President obeys are

doing everything they can to undermine investment in American energy. It is time for this White House to stop this war on American energy.

The White House cannot get by—this country cannot get by when the White House does the bare minimum. This White House should be doing everything that we can to produce more American energy, bring down the costs for American families.

Joe Biden needs to open up public lands for energy production. The Federal lands are the property of the American people. We have the resources. We have it in our country. We have it in the ground right now. This is a solution to the inflation crisis that is hitting families all across the country.

There is no excuse for this administration to continue to block the American people from developing the resources that we have in order to bring down the costs, improve their lives.

Joe Biden needs to approve the 4,600 drilling permit applications he currently has sitting on his desk. He needs to speed up the process for pipeline permits, not crush them. And he needs to stop attacking American energy workers. These workers, these are the people who keep the lights on in this country. These people are those who keep the economy running. These hard workers deserve our support. They deserve our gratitude. They don't deserve the way they are being treated by this administration and this President. These are the people who can help us get out of this crisis that Joe Biden has created.

The American people are fed up with Joe Biden making excuses and dragging his feet. It is what I saw while walking here to the Senate floor on the television screen today: "Joe Biden's approval rating hits an alltime low."

The American people want and demand real solutions. What they deserve is more American energy. And unless this administration wakes up and delivers that, those alltime low approval ratings of this President are going to get even worse.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

FEDERAL RESERVE

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, the Senate is considering several of President Biden's picks to sit on the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve. I have already voted against two of these nominees. I believe they all should be voted down by the Senate.

Under its current leadership, the Fed has lost the trust of the American people and failed to uphold its role as an independent body.

I have been clear about my disapproval of the Fed's policies, especially its massive and its still-growing balance sheet. Both now and throughout recent history, the Federal Reserve has been behind the curve and far too late in taking action to keep America's economy stable.

Its policies to sustain and grow such a massive disproportionate growing

balance sheet are a perfect example of its failure to properly manage the economic needs of our Nation.

For years, I have asked—I have urged—Chair Powell and members of the Federal Open Market Committee to reduce the Fed's unprecedented balance sheet. Nothing has changed. Month after month, we have watched the Fed continue to purchase billions in treasuries and mortgage-backed securities. There is still no plan to wind down and right size the Fed's balance sheet, which today, sits at nearly 40 percent of GDP.

Before the pandemic in 2019, the Fed's balance sheet assets totaled just under \$4 trillion. Today, it is more than double to nearly \$9 trillion dollars. That is more than 10 times the assets the Fed held in 2007, when the balance sheet was under \$1 trillion.

The Federal Reserve's massive balance sheet is becoming a massive problem. When the Fed buys up treasuries and mortgage-backed securities and holds them like this, it is distorting the credit markets and allocation of capital, ultimately hurting our poorest families and Americans on fixed incomes.

And look at how the Fed's policies have made homeownership unattainable for young people. These policies have helped drive up home prices, putting the purchase of a home further out of reach for young families across our Nation.

Now, I will admit that the COVID-19 pandemic presented our Nation with historic challenges, but the Federal Reserve's overreaction and then refusal to react to changing economic circumstances over the last year is unacceptable. The Fed's mismanagement and their management failures have been especially disastrous during the Biden administration. Instead of fighting for the interests of American families, he has chosen to appease the administration hellbent on reckless, inflation-fueling spending.

It is clear to me that the raging inflation crisis we are seeing across America is the fault of Joe Biden and Joe Biden alone. But the Fed's weak appeasement has helped grease the wheels in advancing Biden's reckless spending agenda.

This isn't just my opinion. The Fed knows this is true. Just weeks ago, the San Francisco Fed wrote that the spending packages Biden pushed to allegedly counteract the effects of the pandemic actually fueled inflation.

I have written letters, held meetings, and had phone calls with Chair Powell and members of the Federal Open Market Committee to express my concerns and demand action to shrink the balance sheet. Again, Chair Powell and the Federal Reserve have chosen to do nothing.

Not one member of the Board of Governors has been able to explain to me why the balance sheet is so big and what size it should be. At every turn, when the Fed could have been fighting

for American families by mitigating the long-term risks of its massive balance sheet and telling the truth about the terrible consequences of reckless government spending, it, instead, chose to appease Joe Biden, Wall Street, and the Democrats running Washington, all at the expense of American families. How does Biden reward the Fed for playing nice with him? By turning Chair Powell into his inflation scapegoat.

Earlier today, in the Senate Commerce Committee, after I asked the administration when inflation would come back down, Secretary Raimondo deflected and blamed Chair Powell and the Fed.

But here is my question: If the Biden administration really believes the Fed bears responsibility for inflation, why are they renominating these officials? Why aren't they putting people in who actually can solve the problem? It makes no sense, but that is the endless blame game the Biden administration likes to play.

Americans are sick of weak policy in Washington. It is time for the Federal Reserve to start fighting for real Americans, not Washington politicians. It is clear that the Fed needs new independent and courageous leadership to truly address our Nation's economic problems. Weakness in Fed leadership has produced unsustainable monetary policy that threatens the long-term economic health of our country. It is the very thing I have been warning about for months.

It is clear that the current leadership of the Fed just doesn't care. They don't deserve to hold these seats. They have lost the trust of the American people, and they should be replaced with individuals who will actually stand up for American families and protect the American economy.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

TITLE X

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, for more than 50 years, the Title X Family Planning Program has provided birth control, cancer screenings, HIV tests, and other essential healthcare services to millions of Americans.

Now, this program primarily serves patients who already face many barriers to accessing healthcare. Six in ten women who rely on the program for contraception say that a title X provider is the only healthcare provider they see all year. Yet Republican politicians, like Senator RUBIO, are now using this crucial program, which has historically enjoyed bipartisan support, for political theater.

This vote is only one part of a broad and sustained assault by Republican politicians on Americans' healthcare, including patients' rights to make decisions about their own bodies. Through repeated efforts to limit birth